

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ELAB, PINT, KE
SUBJECT: PRESIDENT MOI ASSURES LABOR LEADERS AND HITS CORRUPTION

1. PRESIDENT MOI ACCOMPANIED BY MINLABOR NYAMWEYA, MINSTATE KOINANGE AND NIAIROBI PROVINCIAL COMMISSIONER BOIT, RECEIVED SEPTEMBER 7 COTU OFFICIALS, INCLUDING SECGEN JUMA BOY, CHAIRMAN FRED OMIDO, MEMBERS EXECUTIVE BOARD AND CHIEF EXECUTIVES OF ALL COTU AFFILIATED UNIONS. ALSO INCLUDED WERE REPS FROM UNION OF KENYAN CIVIL SERVANTS AND NATIONAL UNION OF TEACHERS WHICH ARE NOT AFFILIATED TO COTU. PRESIDENT MOI PLEDGED HIS GOVERNMENT WOULD:

A) CONTINUE TO GUARANTEE WORKERS COLLECTIVE BARGAINING, ADDING THAT KENYAN INDUSTRIAL COURT WOULD CONTINUE TO PROTECT WORKERS WITHOUT GOVERNMENT INTERFERENCE AND THAT GOK WOULD RESPECT COURT'S DECISIONS;

B) WOULD RESPECT RIGHT OF UNIONS TO ELECT OWN OFFICIALS;

C) WOULD COOPERATE WITH LABOR IN TRYING TO INCREASE JOB OPPORTUNITIES IN ALL SECTORS OF ECONOMY;

D) WOULD CONTINUE TO HONOR ILO CONVENTIONS BUT "WOULD NOT ALLOW THE TRADE UNION MOVEMENT TO BE INTERFERED WITH BY OUTSIDE FORCES."

3. ACCORDING MEDIA REPORTS, MOI ALSO DENOUNCED CORRUPTION
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ASKING THAT "THOSE WHO ARE CORRUPT BE REPORTED TO AUTHORITIES."

4. IN RESPONSE, JUMA BOY REPORTEDLY PLEDGED "MAXIMUM SUPPORT, COOPERATION AND UNQUALIFIED LOYALTY" TO PRESIDENT MOI AND CALLED ON KANU TO NOMINATE MOI AS SOLE CANDIDATE FOR PRESIDENCY OF PARTY.

5. COMMENT: MOI'S PLEDGES TO LABOR BREAK NO NEW GROUND AND SHOULD BE SEEN IN CONTEXT OF ASSURANCES TO ALL NATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND GROUPINGS THAT HE INTENDS TO HONOR ALL COMMITMENTS AND CONTINUE PURSUE KENYATTA'S POLICIES. WE TAKE HIS WARNING ABOUT OUTSIDE INTERFERENCE TO BE DIRECTED AGAINST COMMUNISTS WHO HAVE TRIED UNSUCCESSFULLY OVER THE YEARS TO CULTIVATE KENYAN LABOR.

6. NOTEWORTHY IS HIS DENUNCIATION OF CORRUPTION WHICH IS POPULAR ISSUE WITH LABOR AND MAN IN THE STREET. THIS COULD BE ENCOURAGING SIGN IF IT WERE TO BE FOLLOWED UP WITH SOME EFFECTIVE ACTION. HOWEVER, CRACKDOWN ON CORRUPTION BY MOI SO SOON AFTER ASCENSION TO TOP IS APT TO BE VERY RISKY BUSINESS GIVEN FACT VERY FEW TOP-LEVEL PEOPLE REMAIN UNTAINTED.
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